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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Cite, Arrest 20 at Pierogi Festival

WHITING, Ind. (July 27) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested or ticketed 20 people and cited five businesses during the Pierogi Festival in Whiting on Friday and Saturday.

Excise officers patrolled inside the Pierogi Festival, as well as the communities of Whiting, Hammond and East Chicago area during this event.

The following is a list of some of the charges this weekend:

- 7 Minor possession of alcohol
- 5 Open container violation
- 3 Furnishing alcohol to a minor
- 3 Seat belt violations
- 3 Driving while suspended
- 2 Drug possession charges
- 1 Minor in a tavern or liquor store

The following businesses were also cited for violations over the weekend:

- The Bulldog Brewing Company, 1409 119th Street, was preliminarily cited for altering floor plans (temporary permit).
- Clipper Tavern, 1225 119th Street, was preliminarily cited for allowing carry out of alcoholic beverages not in their original container.
- B.P.O.E. #1273, 1521 119th Street, was preliminarily cited for allowing carry out of alcoholic beverages.
- American Slovak Club of Whiting, 1324 119th Street, was preliminarily cited for the scope of permit and no keg registration.
- Euclid Liquors, 3801 Euclid Avenue, East Chicago, was preliminarily cited for allowing a minor to loiter, sale of alcohol to a minor and failure to identify.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.